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position of Tell el Kāḍi: Dan must have required to have its center and citadel at and about Paneas. No doubt the tribe held both of the sites, whose claims are thus contestant, but Paneas must have been the essential position; and we may account for the name Tell el Kāḍi, if, indeed, it be a translation of Dan, by the habit of drifting which names in Palestine have always exhibited. In any way Buhl's characterization of the case for Paneas as "impossible" is not justified. The case is, to say the least, as strong as its rival. If this volume have faults they are found in such summary dismissals of strong arguments. The question of the site of Capernaum is another instance. Buhl supports Tell Hum, but unduly depreciates both the ancient and modern support of the claims of Khan Minyeh.

Another point which is sure to provoke discussion is Dr. Buhl's acceptance of the theory of Blanckenhorn that the climate of Palestine has within historical times decreased in humidity and increased in heat. He seeks proof for this in the decay of forests of cedars upon Lebanon. But we may surely find adequate cause for the latter in the exportation of cedar from the Lebanons, of the constancy and large scale of which we have reports from very early Assyrian times down to the times of the Romans. In all the rest of Palestine we have no proofs that the climate is different from what it was in the period of the Old Testament.

Again, while Dr. Buhl in one passage seems aware of the fact that politically the east coast of the lake of Galilee was reckoned within the Province of Galilee, he yet calls (82) the lake the eastern boundary of the province; and in his section on the towns, villages, etc., of the land separates Bethsaida Julias, Khersa, Hippos, etc., from Tiberias, Capernaum, Chorazin, etc., a separation which lends awkwardness to the plan of his treatment.

But these faults, whether of method or conclusion, are very few, and do not detract from the value of a very thorough and almost exhaustive piece of work.

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ENTSTEHUNG UND GESCHICHTE DES TODTEN MEERES. Von DR. BLANCKENHORN. 4 Tafeln und 8 Abbildungen im Text. Leipzig. 1896. Pp. 59.

THE book here noticed has to do with the most remarkable body of water on the globe. The surface of the Salt Sea is 1300 feet below

the level of the Mediterranean and it is 4000 feet below the summits of the mountains which inclose it on either side. The depth of the sea is 1300 feet, while the valley in which it lies presents, geologically and historically, more features of interest than are found grouped in so small a space anywhere else in the world. The deposits of sulphur and bitumen found here, the great salt mountain, the hot springs, the intense heat of the region, have always attracted curious and perhaps superstitious attention, and in fact it is only sixty years since this wonderful valley and lake emerged from the region of mystery (Schubert, Robinson, and others, 1836-37); but during this period they have been investigated in the most careful manner till today we have become so familiar with the facts of their "origin and history" that they have almost ceased to awaken surprise.

Dr. Blanckenhorn's book belongs to a literature that is already extensive, which American and English scholars, and scholars belonging to several different countries of Europe besides Germany, have had an important share in creating; hence in this as in many similar instances it is difficult to discriminate between the restatement of familiar facts and others that should be accredited as new to the most recent writer. The geological charts are valuable, but of the eight full-page illustrations from photographs only two or three are satisfactory. The present writer is aware, however, from actual experience some years previous to Dr. Blanckenhorn's efforts, that the south end of the Dead Sea is a most difficult place for successful camera work, owing to the fact that contrasts are wanting, earth, rocks, mountains, and sky being all of one color.

The Dead Sea, dating from the Tertiary period, was originally a part of the Mediterranean, but as the land which is now Palestine was gradually elevated it was separated from the Mediterranean and has ever since remained without outlet. All explorers have noticed at different points in the Jordan valley old shore lines of the Dead Sea showing how, little by little, it has receded to its present limits.

Another fact to be noticed is that the strata in the mountain wall east of the Dead Sea are horizontal. These strata appear again on the west of the Dead Sea, but they are many hundreds of feet below the level of those on the east side; like gigantic arches they are traced over the mountains of Western Palestine to reappear on the seacoast. The cleaving from north to south and the dropping down of the strata on the west side is called a "fault." This vast basin receives all the

wash from the surrounding mountains, and the water of the Dead Sea holds many mineral substances in solution.

The deepest popular attention will no doubt be centered upon that point where this subject touches sacred history. The subsidence of the earth in the region of the Dead Sea was gradual. The catastrophe mentioned in Genesis was an event sudden and unexpected. It occurred in historical times and was reported by competent witnesses. From the details given its character seems to have been not that of a violent earthquake, but that of an eruption of bitumen accompanied by fire and dense columns of smoke. The catastrophe had no connection with the origin of the Dead Sea. As to the arid nature of this region, it is not probable that there has been any marked change in historical times.

The "cities" which Lot chose and in which he dwelt were called the "cities of the plain." They were in the Jordan valley which Lot saw from near Ai. It is therefore certain that they could not have been at the south end of the Dead Sea, where Dr. Blanckenhorn would place them, for that region had historically no connection whatever with the Jordan valley.

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A CRITICAL AND EXEGETICAL COMMENTARY ON JUDGES. By GEORGE FOOT MOORE, Professor of Hebrew in Andover Theological Seminary, Andover, Mass. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1895. Pp. 1 + 476. \$3.00. Vol. II of "The International Critical Commentary," Old Testament Section.

THIS is the second volume which has appeared of the Critical Commentary upon the Old Testament. The first, that of Canon Driver upon Deuteronomy, has already been recognized as a most finished and scholarly production, second to none upon that book. This volume is worthy of its predecessor, and is a piece of workmanship reflecting honor upon American scholarship and upon its author, showing that he happily, by the right of his attainments, as well as *ex officio* in his professor's chair, is a true successor of Moses Stuart, the father of American Old Testament exegesis. The wideness of research and investigation exhibited is remarkable. Nothing of value bearing upon the subject-matter of Judges seems to have been overlooked. But the material of others has not been merely gathered but thoroughly